

FIGHTERS FOR FREEDOM OF ISRAEL

D A I L Y P R E S S B U L L E T I N

No. 22

Tel-Aviv, 11th August, 1948

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1) NO MORE ORIENTATIONS.

("Mivrak")

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It may be hoped that in the course of time our courts will earn themselves a solid reputation for their integrity, impartiality and imperviousness to outside influence. Their verdicts will be then accepted without murmur or criticism, even when diverging from or contradicting to views held in some cases by a majority of the public. At the present stage, however, public criticism of court decisions serves a useful purpose and the pressure exerted by public opinion may help to counteract that of the executive authority.

Some recent court decisions invite criticism, although such criticism is directed mainly at the prosecution, i.e. the representatives of the Government.

Two "fives" were involved in two separate cases heard yesterday by two different courts in Tel-Aviv: five Jews and five Britons. Had the Government been impartial, the prosecution would have followed the same course in both cases: it should have demanded detention under the Emergency Regulations for those against whom there was a reasonable suspicion and a commitment for trial for those against whom there was definite evidence or, if otherwise, have then released. (All that without touching on the disgrace and infamy of the continued existence of British Emergency Regulations in the State of Israel.)

But the prosecution applied two different yardsticks to each "five". While three of the British accused were released "for lack of evidence", an additional detention was demanded for the Jews, although it is abundantly clear to every unbiassed observer that the latter had taken an active part in our struggle for liberation and their readiness to serve their people in future could not be questioned, while the British as such are hostile to us.

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One cannot escape the impression that in both cases the Government was far from seeking justice. Their conduct is obviously influenced by political considerations. We do not hesitate to reveal the source of this influence - it is foreign intervention. It is immaterial whether the intervention took the form of a direct representation or not. Not having recognised our State, Britain made its protest at the Security Council. It had effect. In fact, its effectiveness was enhanced owing to the Government's ardent desire to gain British recognition. The release of Britishers suspected of espionage is a concession to Bevin. The prosecution's demand to prolong the detention of the Beisan, besides being inspired by party revengfulness, was also calculated to make a certain impression in London.

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It is our duty to condemn in an emphatic and unambiguous manner all foreign intervention in whatever form, whether acquiesced in by the Government or invited by Bergson's friends from the "American League for Free Palestine". Whatever may be our attitude towards the Government, however unpardonable its sins may be, we flatly reject any foreign intervention against it. No foreign factor whatever can arbitrate in our domestic quarrel. We did not fight the foreign rule, that had established itself here under the pretext of being the impartial arbiter between the Jews and the Arabs, only to introduce another foreign rule by calling upon it to mediate between different Jewish factions. Let us seal all gaps that invite foreign orientation, leaving for it not the slightest crack.

Even if Ben-Gurion's regime were the worst in the world, we should not submit complaints to the Security Council. If forced to fight, we shall invite no foreign power to help us. If a nation does not rally around those who oppose oppression it obviously deserves the rule it has. To invite a foreign guardianship would, nevertheless, be a disaster.

National sovereignty is more precious than straight elections. We shall struggle for honest elections with all means at our disposal, barring foreign intervention.

We must find a way to get rid of Bernadotte's "international observers. We must be on guard against any manifestation of submission to foreign influence on the side of the Government and to denounce it. It is our duty as well to condemn any attempt to introduce foreign intervention against the Government under the pretext of defending the sacred principles of democracy.

This is the duty of every true Jewish patriot, aspiring at a true independence.